

To whom it may concern,

The Healthy Foods Initiative is a worthy program, but it is important that it be funded from Department of Education Funds for reasons of transparency and accountability, if nothing else. In these difficult times the public must have confidence that state government is not playing a "shell game" with public funds. Diverting money from a funding mechanism for land conservation to an education food program is a "slippery slope" that erodes public confidence in our state's officials management of our tax dollars. We must not let this happen. We need public support for all our worthwhile initiatives and this will only come from transparency and accountability. Shell games will only serve to undermine support for what are worthwhile causes.

Neil Volkmar  
19 Deer run Trail  
Sherman, CT 06784

**H.B. No. 6357: An Act Implementing the Budget Recommendations of the Governor Concerning Education** includes a provision (Section 22) that would divert \$4 million annually to the Department of Education's "Healthy Foods Initiative", a program which seeks to provide students at public schools with health meal alternatives.